

School-Home Letter

Dear Family,

During the next few weeks, our math class will be learning to estimate and solve addition and subtraction problems using numbers through hundreds.

You can expect to see homework that provides practice with adding and subtracting numbers as well as estimating sums and differences.

Here is a sample of how your child will be taught to estimate sums.

MODEL Estimate Sums

These are two methods we will be using to estimate sums.

$$367 + 512 = \blacksquare$$

Use rounding.

STEP 1

Round each number to the nearest hundred.

$$\begin{array}{r} 367 \rightarrow 400 \\ + 512 \rightarrow 500 \end{array}$$

STEP 2

Add the rounded numbers.

$$\begin{array}{r} 400 \\ + 500 \\ \hline 900 \end{array}$$

Use compatible numbers.

STEP 1

Find a compatible number for each addend.

$$\begin{array}{r} 105 \rightarrow 100 \\ + 362 \rightarrow 400 \end{array}$$

STEP 2

Add the numbers mentally.

$$\begin{array}{r} 100 \\ + 400 \\ \hline 500 \end{array}$$

Tips

Choosing Compatible Numbers to Estimate Sums and Differences

A number may have more than one compatible number. For example, a compatible number for 362 could be 350 or 400. Whichever numbers are easiest to add or subtract mentally are the best ones to use for estimations.

Activity

Provide books with large numbers of pages (3-digit numbers). Have your child use rounding and compatible numbers to estimate the total number of pages in the two books and compare how many more pages one book has than the other.

Vocabulary

estimate A number close to an exact amount

compatible numbers Numbers that are easy to compute mentally and are close to the real numbers